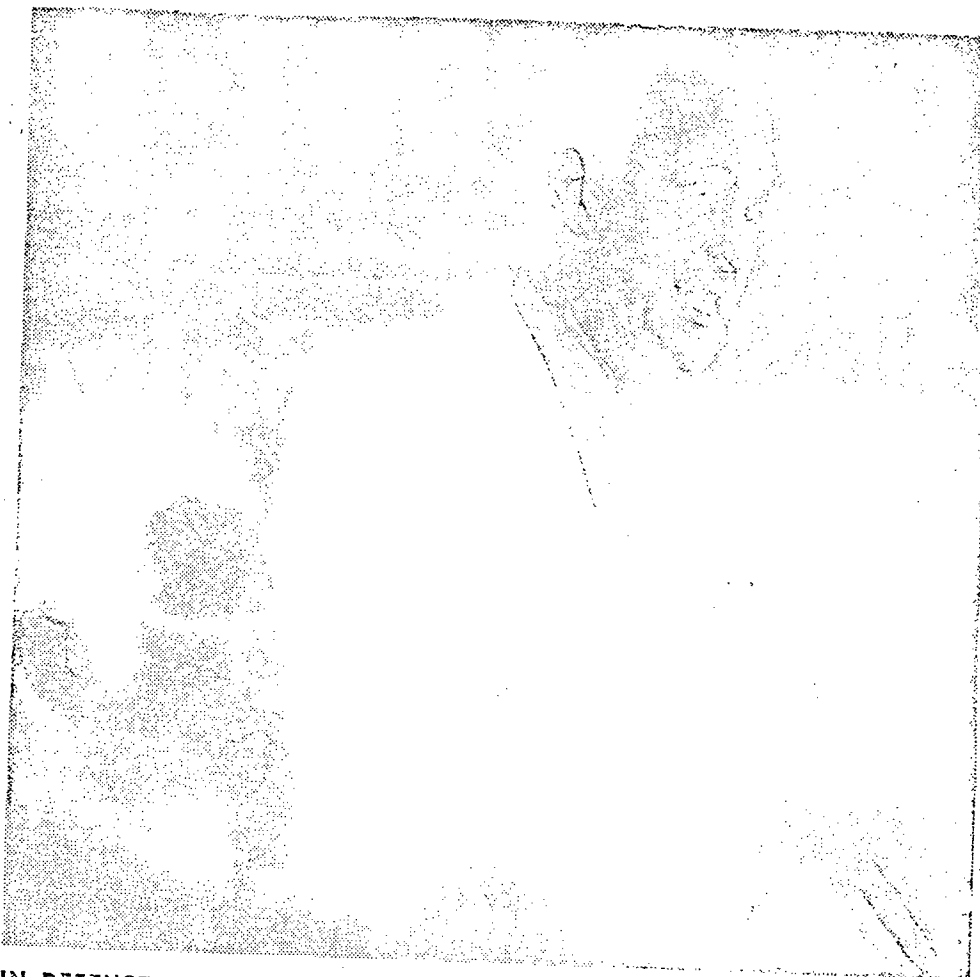


E - 333,224

S - 558,018

APR 15 1971



IN DEFENSE OF THE CIA: Richard Helms, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, addressing the annual convention of the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Washington. Newbold Noyes of the Washington Star, the society's president, is at left. (AP Wirephoto)

Helms Says CIA Is Necessary To Survival Of Democratic Society

From Post-Dispatch Wire Services

WASHINGTON, April 15—The director of the Central Intelligence Agency says his agency is necessary to the survival of a democratic society and asks the nation "to take it on faith that we, too, are honorable men devoted to her service."

Richard Helms, in his first public address since he became head of the agency in 1966, said yesterday, "We propose to adapt intelligence work to American society, not vice versa."

He spoke with the approval of President Richard M. Nixon before a meeting of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

Helms said that the success of American intelligence in the 1962 Cuban missile crisis was due in part to "a number of well-placed and courageous Russians who helped us."

He told reporters later that he was referring to persons who provided information on Soviet missile systems.

American intelligence would have "a major and vital role in any international agreement to limit strategic arms," Helms said in his speech.

He said that the Soviet Union continually has rejected proposals for inspections within its territory and that the United States could undertake

"only if it has adequate intelligence to assure itself that the Soviets are living up to their part."

Helms said: "There is a persistent and growing body of criticism which questions the need and the propriety for a democratic society to have a Central Intelligence Agency."

"It is difficult for me to agree with this view, but I respect it. It is quite another matter when some of our critics—taking advantage of the traditional silence of those engaged in intelligence—say things that are either vicious or just plain silly."

Helms said that the CIA had no domestic security functions and had never sought any. "In short," he said, "we do not target on American citizens."

He denied as vicious a charge that the CIA was involved in the world drug traffic.

Senator George S. McGovern (Dem.), South Dakota, demanded yesterday that the CIA and the Department of State investigate allegations by Ramparts magazine that the CIA facilitated the movement of opium out of Southeast Asia.

In a speech today, Senator Henry M. Jackson (Dem.), Washington, told the newspaper editors that a relentless Soviet arms build-up threatened the survival of the American nuclear deterrent force.

Jackson said popular opinion, which holds that the military balance leans heavily in the favor of the United States, was wrong.

Jackson said the arms race must be brought under control at the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. He repeated his proposal that the United States should buy more time and should consider a partial, interim agreement—for an initial period of one year—with the Soviet Union.

HS/HC-228